

Nonfiction

Guinea Pig Scientists: Bold Self-Experimenters in Science and Medicine

– **Dendy:** Recounts the true stories of ten scientists and medical researchers that have endured extreme (that is fascinating and gruesome) hardship and discomfort in order to test new discoveries and inventions in the fields of medicine and science.

One Hundred Young Americans –

Franzini: Features photographs and brief profiles of one hundred teenagers across America, providing insights into the youth culture in the U.S. and the reality of the lives of young people.

Made You Look: How Advertising Works and Why You Should Know – **Gray-**

don: Explores how the advertising industry attempts to win the purchasing power of kids and influence their buying choices and those of their parents.

Charles and Emma: The Darwins' Leap of Faith – **Heiligma:** A biography of English naturalist Charles Darwin that provides an account of the personality behind evolutionary theory and the affect of his work on his personal life, such as his relationship with his religious wife – a great depiction of Victorian life, as well!

Life on an African Slave Ship – **Kleinman:**

Describes the history of the slave trade, focusing on the journey to America aboard slave ships.

Killer Rocks from Outer Space: Asteroids, Comets, and Meteorites – **Koppes:**

Describes the role that collisions with meteors, comets, and asteroids have played in the history of Earth and other planets in the solar system and examines what is being done to protect Earth from future collisions.

The Blue Jean Book: The Story Behind the Seams – **Kyi:**

Traces the history of blue jeans from the invention of riveted pants by Levi Strauss in California in the 1870s, to the appearance of the garment on the fashion runways of the twenty-first century.

What the World Eats – **Menzel:**

A non-fiction collection of photographs depicting twenty-five families from twenty-one different countries, and includes Chad, Equador, Greenland, Japan, Mongolia, and others, and also describes the cost of a weeks worth of food, and other cultural information for each listed country. Examines real, enlightening, sometimes sobering food-related issues.

Does Anything Eat Wasps?: and 101 Other Unsettling, Witty Answers to Questions You Never Thought you Wanted to Ask – **New Scientists.**

The Smart Aleck's Guide to American History – **Selzer:**

This irreverent books illuminates interesting historical observations, such as that most listeners who came to hear Lincoln's Gettysburg Address disappointed because they "just liked to hear quotes from Dead Romans. It made them feel really smart."

Recommended Websites

Ipl2

<http://www.ipl.org/>

A reliable subject directory of useful sites reviewed and evaluated by librarians. Recently became a site combining the Internet Public Library (IPL) and the Librarians' Internet Index (LII)

American Library Association Newberry Page

<http://www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html>

For a look at current and past Newberry-Medal-awarded authors, visit the site of the Association for Library Service to Children.

AlltheWeb from Yahoo

<http://www.alltheweb.com/?cat=news>

A strong news site that includes international events; Keep abreast over the summer.

Teensread

<http://www.teenreads.com/index.asp>

Teenreads.com bring teens info and features about their favorite authors, books, series and characters. It is a part of The Book Report Network, a group of websites founded in 1996 that share thoughtful book reviews, compelling features, in-depth author profiles and interviews, excerpts of new releases, literary games and contests, and more with readers every week.



Winchester Thurston School

SUMMER READING Requirements and Recommendations



For students entering
GRADE 8

2010-2011

www.winchesterthurston.org

Required Reading for Eighth-Graders

These books must be read before school starts on August 26, 2010:

In addition to the titles listed for each class, students must also read one book for the Advisory Program. Before leaving for summer break, students entering grade 8 will receive, ON LOAN, a book to read for Advisory. Books are to be returned to language arts teachers on August 26, 2010, or the school will charge for unreturned copies. Please refer to the letter from Nancy Patton that outlines the guidelines for reading the books.

Language Arts

Choose 1:

The Diary of a Young Girl – Frank

A Long Way Gone – Beah

Chinese Cinderella: The True Story of an

Unwanted Daughter – Mah

Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood – Kim

Social Studies

Children of the Great Depression – Freedman

Other Suggested Reading for Eighth-Graders

Fiction

***The Declaration* – Malley:** In 2140 England, where drugs enable people to live forever and children are illegal, teenaged Anna, an obedient "Surplus" training to become a house servant, has her world view challenged when she meets Peter and discovers that her birth parents are trying to find her.

***Chains* – Anderson:** After being sold to a cruel couple in New York City, a slave named Isabel spies for the rebels during the Revolutionary War.

***Ashes of Roses* – Auch:** Sixteen-year-old Rose Nolan arrives on Ellis Island in 1911 in the hopes of starting a new life, but after most of her family is sent back to Ireland, she must find her own way in a new country and fend for herself and her younger sister.

***Warrior Girl: A Novel of Joan of Arc* – Chambers:** Although surrounded by treachery, Mariane, battles alongside her cousin, Joan of Arc, for the liberation of France from England.

***Waiting for Normal* – Connor:** Twelve-year-old Addie tries to cope with her mother's erratic behavior and being separated from her beloved stepfather and half-sisters when she and her mother go to live in a small trailer by the railroad tracks on the outskirts of Schenectady, New York.

***The Rock and the River* – Magoon:** In 1968 Chicago, fourteen-year-old Sam Childs is caught in a conflict between his father's nonviolent approach to seeking civil rights for African-Americans and his older brother, who has joined the Black Panther Party. A great book for reliving this challenging era.

***Coraline* – Gaiman:** Looking for excitement, Coraline ventures through a mysterious door into a world that is similar, yet disturbingly different from her own, where she must challenge a gruesome entity in order to save herself, her parents, and the souls of three oth-

ers—better than the movie!!

***Rapunzel's Revenge* – Hale:** In this very cool graphic novel, Rapunzel, having grown up in a lovely castle with the woman she thought was her mother, is placed in a very tall hollow tree as punishment after her curiosity prompts her to climb the castle wall and look at the ruin of the world beyond her home, but she is able to escape and with the help of Jack, embarks on a plan to free the land from the grip of the witch.

***The Warrior series* – Hunter:** So, in 5th and 6th grades, you missed reading these fantastic adventure tales about (get this) clans of warring cats; now is the time to get on board. In the first, *Into the Wild*, Rusty, a bored house kitten, is apprenticed by the ThunderClan and must struggle to fit in when the group of feral cats is threatened by the enemy ShadowClan.

***The Green Glass Sea* – Klages:** (*Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction 2007*) While her father works on the Manhattan Project, eleven-year-old gadget lover and outcast Dewey Kerrigan lives in Los Alamos Camp, and becomes friends with Suze, another young girl who is shunned by her peers.

***Schooled* – Korman:** Cap lives in isolation with his grandmother, a former hippie; but when she falls from a tree and breaks her hip, Cap is sent to a foster home where he has his first experience in a public school.

***Airborn* – Opper:** Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures reportedly living hundreds of feet above the Earth's surface.

***Skybreaker* – Opper:** Continuing where Airborn left off, Skybreaker finds Matt, a student at the Airship Academy, and Kate, a young heiress, team up with a gypsy and a daring captain, to find a long-lost airship, rumored to carry a treasure beyond imagination.

***Starclimber* – Opper:** In this third installment, as members of the first crew of astralnauts, Matt Cruse and Kate De Vries journey into outer space on the "Starclimber" and face a series

of catastrophes that threaten the survival of all on board.

***Black Storm Comin'* – Wilson:** Twelve-year-old Colton, son of an African-American mother and a white father, takes a job with the Pony Express in 1860 after his father abandons the family on their California-bound wagon train, and risks his life to deliver an important letter that may affect the growing conflict between the North and South.

***Trickster's Choice* and *Trickster's Queen* – Pierce:** Alianne must call forth her mother's courage and her father's wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. (Alianne is daughter of the heroine of Pierce's "Song of the Lioness" quartet; readers need not have read the previous collection to enjoy these excellent tales.)

***Stolen* – Vande Velde:** A girl finds herself running through the forest at the edge of a village with no memory of anything, even her own name, and later learns that she might be twelve-year-old Isabelle, believed to be stolen by a witch six years before. A suspenseful book from a favorite author, simple on the surface, but thought provoking.

***The Thief* – Turner:** Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief, and relishes the adventure that takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.